



TAVISTOCK URBAN DISTRICT



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1961

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The following members of the Council served on the Public Health and Housing Committee during the year:

Chairman: Mrs. D. L. H. Pinder.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. H. Moore.

Members:

Mr. G. P. Clark.

Mrs. T. D. Gillies.

Mr. E. H. Knape.

Mr. A. J. Mill.

Mr. F. G. Quant

Mr. D. H. Treloar.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. J. CONNOLLY, M.I.P.H.E., C.R.S.I

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

J. J. M. CLARK.

Assistant and Chief Clerk:

Miss P. B. FLETCHER.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Pinder and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1961, which has been prepared in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the town remains good.

Vital statistics for the year are set out in the accompanying tables:

SECTION "A"

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)	2,098
Population—1931 census	5,130
Population—1951 census	5,889
Estimated home population mid 1961 ...	6,300
Number of inhabited houses	2,085
Rateable value	£94,924
Product of the Penny Rate	£372 19s. 8d.
Loan Debt	£687,135

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births.			
Legitimate	37	36	
Illegitimate	—	3	76
Deaths	46	56	102

*England
and Wales*

Live Births:

Number	76	
Rate per 1,000 population	12.06	17.4
Corrected birth rate	13.86	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.9%	

Still Births:

Number	Nil	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—	18.7
Total live and still births	76	

Infant Mortality Rates:

Infant deaths under one year	Nil	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	Nil	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate births	Nil	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	Nil	
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil	
Perinatal Mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live births)	Nil	

Maternal Mortality Rate. (Including abortion).

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...	Nil

Deaths:

Crude death rate per 1,000 population ...	16.1	12.0
Corrected death rate	10.6.	

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1957	6,210	11.4	18.0
1958	6,180	10.3	16.3
1959	6,190	10.5	15.0
1960	6,210	12.7	17.8
1961	6,300	12.0	16.1

The chief causes of death were as follows:

Tuberculosis	2
Syphilis	1
Cancer	18
Vascular diseases	13
Coronary disease	22
Other heart diseases	13
Other circulatory diseases	10
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	7
Other respiratory diseases	1
Ulcer in stomach and duodenum	1
Nephritis	1
Other ill-defined diseases	12

AGE AT DEATH TABLE

Age at death	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—
1—4 years	—	—
5—14 years	—	—
15—25 years	—	1
25—34 years	—	1
35—44 years	—	1
45—54 years	1	7
55—64 years	6	7
65—74 years	13	12
75 and over	26	27
	—	—
Total ...	46	56

SECTION “B”

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The general provision of health services remain as in previous years.

Welfare Foods.

The W.V.S. continue to give most valuable assistance distributing these foods to the general public.

Ambulance Service.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade, under delegated powers from the Local County Health Authority, continue to give a highly satisfactory 24-hour cover for the whole district.

Maternity Accommodation.

During the year 245 babies were born in the Tavistock Maternity Home as follows:

Tavistock Urban District	52
Tavistock Rural District	121
Others	72

Sixty-eight per cent of the babies born in the Tavistock Urban District during the year were born in the Tavistock Maternity Home.

Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Tavistock in June and examined school leavers, hospital staff and a small number of the general public. A total of 218 persons were examined.

Doctor Budding, the Senior Assistant County Medical Officer has submitted the following report on her work during the year:

The general health, and standard of cleanliness of the children remains high.

The local Staff continues as before, but with an additional Health Visitor. Unfortunately there is no replacement as yet for a Speech Therapist following Mrs. Fulford's retirement during the year.

Dr. Foxwell, an Eye Specialist, has been visiting the area regularly in the interim period, before an Oculist is appointed.

A new scheme of Medical Inspections of school children has now completed a full year of working, and appears to be worth while. After this necessary trial period it is to be carried out by medical officers in other areas in Devon. Briefly, this is that each entrant to a local school, of whatever age, is brought forward for Medical Examination as soon as possible after entry. This is a fairly extensive examination including hearing and eye tests.

Subsequent Medical Examinations are only made in the case of children brought forward by parents, school teachers, or Health Visitors. The parents of each child, however, have a "continuation" form to complete every three years, which gives them the opportunity of having the child examined if they wish it, or if the school Doctor feels it necessary. By cutting down the number of Medical Examinations in certain cases, the time made available has been used to visit the Schools **each** term, and to give more time to the examination and discussion with parents and teachers, in cases of children requiring it.

Mental Health.

The Occupation Class continues all day at the Clinic once a week. During the year a few of these children were admitted as boarders at Oaklands Park, Dawlish, Junior Training Centre. (These are children who are at present unable to benefit from ordinary or Special Schools). It is hoped that buildings will be completed within the next year or so for Hostel accommodation for the remaining children, at the Junior Training Centre at Plymstock.

A valuable innovation this year has been the admission of some of these children to Oaklands Park for short holiday periods, this has been a great help to their parents.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

During the Summer Term it was decided that children between 5—11 years of age (the most vulnerable age group) should have a fourth Poliomyelitis injection. This was completed with a very high acceptance rate (either through the local authority service, or their General Practitioners), in all the Primary and Private Schools.

B.C.G. Vaccinations (Anti-Tuberculosis).

The acceptance rate for 3rd year school children in the local authority, and Private Senior Schools continues to rise, which is very satisfactory; the acceptance rate was 80 per cent.

Anti-Tetanus Injections.

A high percentage of babies are protected now, and quite a number of older children who had no opportunity of protection as babies. A booster dose should be given every five years to maintain protection. Tetanus is almost invariably a fatal disease. A single dose of Anti-Tetanus Serum to prevent it is given after an accident or injury if there has been no Anti-Tetanus Immunisation previously, but this serum is dangerous in certain cases, and can cause severe reactions, and even death. This is the reason for the importance of Anti-Tetanus Immunisation, particularly in this area where ponies roam freely and can be a source of the infection.

Smallpox Vaccinations.

Compared with other parts of the country the percentage of babies being vaccinated is reasonably good, but is not nearly as satisfactory as it should be. It should be emphasised that vaccination in babies produces little or no reaction in the majority of cases. These can always be revaccinated with safety in later years. On the other hand, older children and adults being vaccinated for the first time run the risk of very severe reactions in a number of cases. For this reason alone, especially in this age of air travel when infection can be brought into the country inadvertently, it is desirable to vaccinate in babyhood (except in rare cases of medical contra-indication).

During the year the Clinic was visited by the Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, who expressed himself very impressed with the facilities offered, and in "such pleasant surroundings", to this country town of Tavistock.

SECTION "C".

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am still considerably concerned with the purity of the town's water supply which is now the responsibility of the North Devon Water Board. The Board have augmented the town's supply as regards Whitchurch and the higher levels from the Dartmoor source via Brentor reservoir, but the centre of the town is still supplied by the Kilworthy intake and, in spite of chlorination, from time to time bacteriological tests taken by the public health staff show pollution. At one time in September when the chlorination apparatus failed the samples were deplorable. I can only reiterate and stress my recommendations made over many years that the Kilworthy supply, although excellent water as tested inorganically is quite unacceptable organically unless surface pollution is removed by filtration. As it would appear that a number of years must elapse before the Board are in a position to replace this supply entirely I must still urge, in the public interest, that the Kilworthy supply be adequately treated by filtration and terminal chlorination.

During the year your Inspectors took 68 samples of water from the public mains supply and eight from private sources. Of those samples taken from the Kilworthy main supply, five received an adverse report, four of these were due to chlorinator breaking down during the absence on leave of the supervisor from 11th to 14th September.

The County Sampling Officer took four samples from the Tavistock School, all of which were satisfactory.

From records received in this office, officers of the North Devon Water Board took 68 samples of their water supply during the year, 54 of which were satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory. The 14 unsatisfactory reports were on water taken from the Kilworthy Intake, before chlorination.

Sewage Disposal.

Large flows have regularly been recorded at Whitchurch and Crowndale works.

The settlement tanks at Crowndale were completely cleared out of all deposit and are now in use in rotation, after repairs to various penstocks were carried out.

Further work was carried out in investigating infiltration into existing sewers, and particularly in the Whitchurch outfall area.

Sewers were opened in several areas in the town and repair work carried out.

The work of preparing the new capital works is being carried on by Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard.

Refuse Collection.

Crowndale tip was used extensively by the Contractors and other firms as well as the Council.

Arrangements have been made for the whole of the old and new tipping areas to be graded and soiled and seeded and the ground generally to be reclaimed.

Swimming Bath.

The regular circulation, hypochlorination and aeration of the water, plus the use of algicides have given good results both from the point of view of visual condition and also bacteriologically. The new plant has worked well and daily tests have shewn regular good results.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

In the table following the number of visits made in connection with routine work, in addition to work itemised in the various sections, are shown:

Drainage	90
Rodent Control	28
Housing Applications	57
Housing Management	585
Sanitary defects and complaints	15
Pet Shops	5
Disinfection	nil
Disinfestation	1
Sewage works and refuse tips ..	114
Special visits	377
Sampling	167

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.

Tables showing the number of inspections made, cases in which defects were found, and the number of outworkers in the town, are set out in the tables at the end of this report.

Weather.

The total rainfall for the year was 49.27 inches.

	Rainfal	Average Temp.
January	7.57	40.58
February	4.47	45.21
March	0.26	46.71
April	7.47	50.47
May	1.50	52.26
June	1.05	57.45
July	3.35	59.48
August	3.96	59.21
September	4.37	58.95
October	7.75	51.42
November	2.53	44.67
December	4.99	40.60

SECTION "D".

HOUSING.

Four two-bedroom type houses were completed and occupied during the year at Buctor Park, and at the end of the year four two-bedroom type houses and four one-bedroom flats were under construction at Anderton Lane.

The sites of Nos. 16 to 20 King Street have been cleared and are now ready for further housing development. Four individually unfit houses were demolished during the year, one in Pepper Street, Tavistock, and three in Whitchurch (Sunshine Cottages and Bradpark Cottage).

A total of 288 dwellings have been completed and occupied since building commenced in 1946.

According to the records ~~to~~ houses were erected by private enterprise and occupied during the year, in addition to the above figures.

There were 150 applicants for Council houses on the register at 31st December, 1961: 69 of whom are resident outside the Urban area.

The following list indicates the different type of accommodation required by the applicants.

Single bedroom requirements	48
Two bedroom requirements	69
Three bedroom requirements	27
Four bedroom requirements	6

On the 31st December, 1961, the Council controlled the following properties:

Four bedroom houses (all built prior to 1946)	4
Three bedroom houses (122 pre 1946 and 123 post 1946) less 49 sold to occupiers	196
Two bedroom houses (24 pre 1946 and 93 post 1946, less 4 sold to occupiers)	113
Two bedroom Bungalows (all post 1946)	16
Two bedroom Maisonettes (all post 1946)	3
One bedroom Maisonettes (all post 1946)	34
One bedroom Flats (all post 1946)	16
Bed-sitting Flats (all post 1946)	3
Total ...	<hr/> 385 <hr/>

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk:

There are two retailers and one producer/retailer with premises within the Urban area, all other retailers have premises outside the area.

Monthly samples of milk were taken from retailers selling milk in the Urban area, and the results obtained are summarised in the following table:

Type of Milk	Number of Samples	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	37	36	—	1
T.T.	13	10	2	1
Ungraded	6	5	—	1

Other Food Premises:

Regular inspections were made during the year of the various food premises in the town. The number of food premises in the area, by type of business is:

Hotels, Public Houses and Inns	11
Canteens (in schools, clubs, hospitals and and institutions)	20
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	14
Bed and Breakfast premises and Guest Houses	19
Butchers' shops and stalls	14
Bakeries (Baking own bread)	2
Fishmongers	2
Provision Shops	34

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of sausages and preserved foods =9 and for the sale of Ice Cream=27.

A total of 8 ice-cream samples were taken during the year. The results were all Grade 1.

No premises in the area is used for the manufacture of ice-cream.

During the year 125 inspections of food premises were made and no formal action under the Act was taken.

Condemned foodstuffs are collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tip, with the exception of meat and offal from the abattoir.

Meat Inspection:

Meat Inspection has been fully carried out by your Inspectors at the abattoir during the year. A total of 19,967 carcasses were dealt with, being an increase of 3,756 over the preceeding year's kill. Meat inspection involved 791 visits to the abattoir.

Fuller details of the number of animals killed and inspected, and the carcasses, parts or organs, condemned, are set out in the table at the end of this report.

Condemned Meat and Offals:

Condemned meat and offals were collected from the abattoir by approved contractors.

Samples taken under Section 2, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Butter (2 samples)

Cocoa

Red Pepper Sauce

Beef Sausages

Tea

Double Devon Cream

ALL GENUINE

Margarine

Full Cream Condensed Milk

Cheese Spread with Ham

Malt Vinegar

Ground Almonds

Rum

Pork pie infected with a growth of mould; fined £28-3-0 on 6/12/62.

Milk.—23 Samples. Genuine.

Food Poisoning:

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

SECTION "F"

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.**

The following table shows the number of infectious diseases which were notified by the local practitioners during the year:

	Whooping Cough		Measles		Food Poisoning	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2 years	—	—	—	1	—	—
3—4 years	—	—	1	2	—	—
5—9 years	3	2	8	10	—	—
10—14 years ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
15—24 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	3	3	10	13	—	1

One case of scarlet fever was notified by the Tavistock School authorities.

Tuberculosis.

During the year two deaths were recorded from this cause, and five cases were admitted to the Register—all pulmonary in origin. At the end of the year there were 41 cases of registered tuberculosis in the Tavistock Urban District, distributed as follows:

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
20	11	5	5

In conclusion I would thank the Public Health Committee for the ready hearing I have received at all times and the Public Health Staff and others who have materially assisted in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,
Medical Officer of Health.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	2198	162	326	10,271	7010	—
Number Inspected	2198	162	326	10,271	7010	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	7	5	20	35	8	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	442	47	2	345	195	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	20.4%	32%	6.7%	3.6%	2.9%	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	3	—	—	—	66	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.1%	—	—	—	0.9%	—
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	34	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	34	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authorities ...	52	42	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding out-worker's premises)	4	29	—	—
TOTAL ...	65	79		—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	Section 110			Section 111	
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) c</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i> <i>Prosecutions</i>
<i>Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)</i>	2	—	—	—	—

